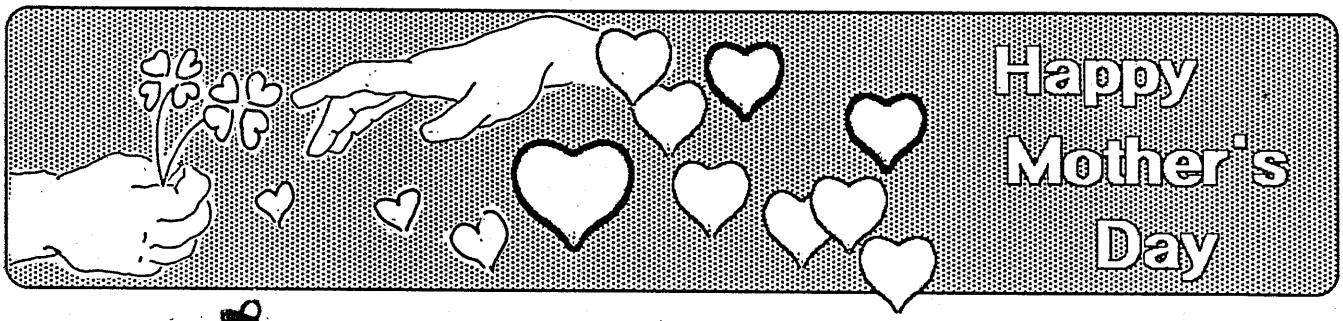
RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

May, 1987 232 Ogden Avenue — Jersey City, N.J. 07307 — (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL.



MEETING MINUTES

The April meeting of the RNA was very informative. Our first guest was Audrey Zapp who spoke about the Liberty State Park. Ms Zapp is a member of the Liberty Park Commission and a group called Friends of Liberty Park. This group is concerned with keeping the park open to the use of all the people, and not just allowing developement to benfit a small number of the population. Ms Zapp was enlisting RNA's support as Friends of the park and also to invite us to join in a Liberty State Park walk to be held May 9,1987 starting at 10AM at the Environmental Center in the park.

Our next guests were Officer Ed Racowski and Capt Galvin of the police dept. In an effort to enliven our block watch we had our guests address many questions with regard to making calls when we see any suspicious happenings or persons. The officers also gave us some tips on making our homes safer by being more aware of our own habits and carelessness. To aid in the open discussion we viewed a film that showed the typical forms of illegal entry and the simple preventive measures that could have avoided these crimes.

After the committee reports ie; Carin Lewis--Flea Market Chairwoman, Anne Hart--Environment Committee, and Randy Sanford--Planning and Development, we had one more guest Mr Bernard Kenny. Mr Kenny is a candidate for the State Assembly for the 33rd Dist.

There is always someone or some thing of interest to be found at our association meetings. Please join us next month at the Harborview Health Care Center on Tuesday May 12th at 7:30pm. We look forward to sharing an interest with you.

Secretary
Maria E Tuzzo

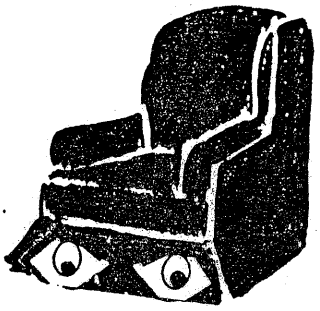
P.S. Thanks to Valerie Rea for the delicious cake

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

These words may be humble
And ever so small
But come most sincerely
With love above all

And all of the joys
That a life span imparts
We wish to each Mother
From most gratefull hearts

Maria E Tuzzo



Under the Chair

This month our group has been concentrating their efforts on two important issues. The first is the organizing efforts to protest two building proposals on Ogden Avenue going before the Board of Adjustment on May 7th. One proposal, at 154-156 Ogden, is to construct a 7 story, 42 unit residential condominium with off-street parking to accomodate 67 cars. RNA is against this project because it is too tall and has too many apartments. (No other residential building in the neighborhood is even half the height or density of this proposal.) Our Planning and Development Committee's attempts to negotiate with the developers (Pohlman Hall's Frank Latinas and Fred Rosen) and the City (Urban Research and Design's Richard Bass) have been unsuccessful.

The second building proposal, at 346-352 Ogden, is asking to demolish a landmark two-family residence and construct a 4-story, 10-12 unit condominium with off-street parking. RNA is supporting the efforts of the North Ogden Block group to oppose this project because:

1) we are determined to require the developer to comply with the R-2 zoning requirements, and

2) we would like to prevent the destruction of this historic structure.

RNA has always tried to maintain the R-2 character of our neighborhood. (R-2 stands for residential, two family structure, which is the densest building that can be built on a standard 25' X 100 lot.) We have always welcomed development, as evidenced by our participation in the Bd. of Adjustment process, BUT ONLY APPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT, conforming to the R-2 zoning.

RNA is determined to fight any mid-, or high-rise development that will strain our already overcrowded living conditions, such as traffic, parking, police response, sewerage, and education.

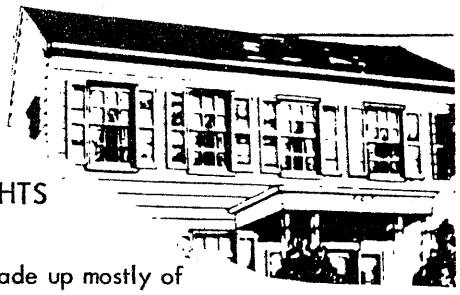
The other issue RNA has been actively involved with is the city-wide crusade to save the Loew's Jersey Theatre in Journal Square from demolition by the developer Hartz Mountain. RNA is supporting the efforts of the Hudson County Coalition to convert the theatre into a cultural center for the performing arts. Realizing that Jersey City is not in a position to finance this renovation by itself, RNA advocates the proposals for either a state takeover of the theater or for the developer to donate it as a philanthropic gesture. (On April 23rd, the City Council approved by a 6-2 vote with one abstention, a redevelopment plan for Journal Square which calls for studying the economic feasibility of creating a cultural center at the Loew's Theatre. Councilman George Aviles voted for the plan and Councilman Tom Hart voted against the plan.)

Opinion: In regard to these two issues that RNA has committed itself to - it is interesting that our biggest adversaries are our public officials who continuously refuse to allow the citizens to exercise their right of self-determination in securing and maintaining their own environment.

Other Business: Our April meeting with the Police Dept's Crime Watch Unit was very successful. RNA now has over 35 participating households on Ogden and Palisades Avenues who have signed up for the program.

Contiued on page 5

CONRAD'S CORNER



MAKING THE FIRST MOVIES ON THE HEIGHTS

by Theodore Conrad

Hudson City at the turn of the century was a great cultural center made up mostly of Germans who settled in great numbers in the area around 1850. There were singing societies, zither clubs, turnvereins, literary societies and entertainment centers with beer gardens, one musical instrument factory and two manufacturers of music boxes.

Many of the original settlers came over from New York's 14th Street when that area became overcrowded. It was an ideal spot to locate the Pathe'Frers movie studio on the corner of Ogden Avenue and Congress Street in the Heights because it could be reached by the Hudson tube and the Union Hill or Passaic trolley from New York in half an hour.

I still have some vivid memories of the early movie days when the Perils of Pauline were being filmed on Ogden Avenue. Front stoops of houses were rented for a few dollars, the Gothic House at 240 Ogden Avenue with its pointed windows became a church background. The stone Crematory in North Bergen, before it was faced with cream brick, was the backdrop for a medieval castle.

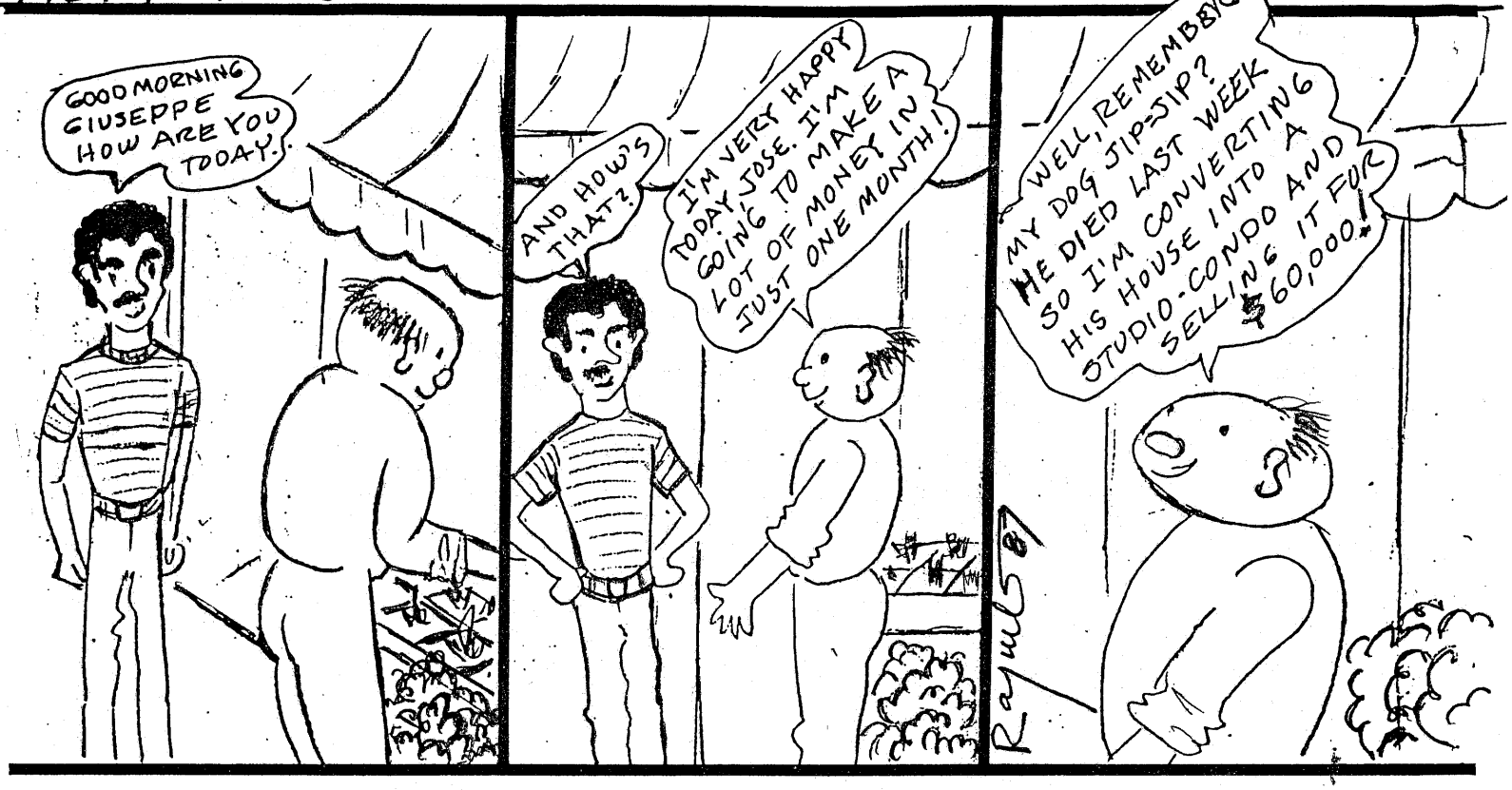
There was much excitment and many onlookers, as kids we were always being chased a good distance away from the camera. We were overawed when Pearl White came down the street in a Stutz Bear-cat with its hood strapped down with a buckle. The white Pierce Arrow which followed was the first car to have headlights in its fenders which my cousin pointed out to me as it passed by.

An inclined plane was erected on the edge of the cliff at Griffith Street and Riverview Park. It had an open car hinged to it so that it could be tipped at a steep angle and the occupants could be made to come tumbling out, landing on mattresses a short distance below. All of which created the horrifying illusion of a car going over a cliff. It took about two weeks of rehearsing before the cameraman came up with a decent shot. One of our tenants, Charlie Morrow was badly bruised and bleeding after two weeks of being dumped out of the car on the mattress. The other hired extras must have been in the same shape. Elaine Roessler, a Broadway actress, came over to stay with her family on Ogden Avenue. She was one of the so called fast crowd working for Pathe' and was called a "hussy" by the neighbors because she smoked a cigarette. When she took on overdose of dope and had to be taken out in an ambulance the scandal rocked the whole of Ogden Avenue.

Most of the actors spent their weekends in small cottages near the Highlands of Navesink. The American Cup races were on at the time and could be watched from the grounds of the Atlantic Highlands lighthouse. The Highlands could easily be reached by the C.R.R. Sandy Hook and Monmouth steamers which made the trip across the bay in fifty minutes.

We had two movie houses on Central Avenue. The Princess opposite Zabriski Street and the Hippodrome which occupied the site of the present parking lot next to the Post Office. The Hippodrome had a great energy saving feature, when fans could no longer cool the interior at night the side exit doors were opened up and the audience filed out into an open air theatre next door. There was also an open air theatre on Bowers Street between New York and Webster Avenue which was short lived because it was only open three months of the year.

The opening of the National Theatre on Central Avenue between South and Bleecker Street in the early twenties showing the "Birth of a Nation" and "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" ushered in the first full length silent movies in a first class fireproof auditorium. The nickelodeons housed in "firetraps" were then forced to close.


GOOD MORNING GIUSEPPE HOW ARE YOU TODAY?
AND HOW'S THAT?
I'M VERY HAPPY TODAY JOSE. I'M GOING TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY IN JUST ONE MONTH!
WELL, REMEMBER MY DOG JIP-SIP? HE DIED LAST WEEK SO I'M CONVERTING HIS HOUSE INTO A STUDIO-CONDO AND SELLING IT FOR $60,000!
Rayuls

NOODLE-DOODLES

1.	MAN / BOARD
2.	KNEE / LIGHTS
3.	MIND / MATTER
4.	WEAR / LONG

Answers on page 5

MOTTO OF THE MONTH

Here is dawning
Another new Day _____
Think _____ will thou let
it go useless away?

M. Tresca

CRUMB CAKE

1 package yellow cake mix
3 bars margarine (do not soften)
3/4 cup sugar
3 cups flour
3 tesp. cinnamon

Heat oven to 350. Grease and flour 17 x 11 baking pan.

Make cake mix as directed on package. Spread in pan and bake 20 min. While cake is in oven make topping. Combine the margarine, sugar, flour and cinnamon with pastry blender until mixture crumbs nicely. Put on top of cake and continue to bake for an additional 15 to 20 min.-do not bake any longer. Makes 16 generous pieces.

Carin Lewis

UNDER THE CHAIR
Continued from page 2

There will soon be installation of Crime Watch street signs around our neighborhood. RNA has also invited back the Police Dept. to give a lecture on the problem of drugs in the neighborhoods.

Reminder: Spring is here! Let's all cleanup our gardens and front sidewalks. We should be proud to walk and play in our neighborhood, not be embarrassed by the garbage and the dog feces that litter our streets. RNA has already notified the Department of Sanitation to begin inpsections of our blocks, give warnings where necessary, and to dispense summons to the guilty homeowners.

Guess Who We Grew Up To Be

This sweet school girl is a very vocal and active RNA member. Can you recognize this neighborhood resident?

St. Nicholas parish and I extend an invitation to all of our area to come and join us at our annual bazaar, which will begin on Thursday, May 14 at 6:00pm in the school playground and run to Sunday, May 17 at 7:00pm.

This year we will feature two amusement rides for the "wee" ones and for the not so "wee", we will have a ferris wheel. When's the last time you sat on top of the "world" with that someone special?

Take a chance on our 50/50 fair share drawing. There will be 3 prizes and the drawing will be on Sunday, May 17 at 6:00pm.

Or try your hand at the many wheels and games we will have. Win a T.V., bicycle, stuffed animal or any of our many other prizes. And if "lady luck" doesn't shine on you at least come and enjoy our great variety of food -- zeppole, sausage & peppers, hot dogs, cotton candy and much, much more.

The Dates and Times are:

Thursday,	May 14 -	6pm - 10pm
Friday,	May 15 -	6pm - 10pm
Saturday,	May 16 -	3pm - 11pm
Sunday,	May 17 -	12pm - 7pm

Hoping to see you there,

Kathy Dellaglio
Chairwoman

ANSWERS TO NOODLE-DOODLES

1. MAN OVER BOARD
2. NEON-LIGHTS
3. MIND OVER MATTER
4. LONG UNDERWEAR

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Maria Tuzzo

Art/Designing:: R.S. Gerber-Kwok, Raquel Sweeny

Staff Writers/Contributors: Marie "Dee" Ipsaro, R.S. Gerber-Kwok, Kathy Brennan, Carin Lewis, Maria Tuzzo, Edith Springer, Raquel Sweeny

Circulation: Mrs. Marie Tuzzo

Editorial Consultant: Vito Brunetti

COME AND BE COUNTED!

HELP FIGHT THE DEVELOPERS

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS

MAY 7, 1987
CITY HALL / COUNCIL CHAMBERS
280 GROVE STREET
7:00 PM
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

YOU ARE UNDER ATTACK:

POHLMAN'S HALL II PROJECT (PARKING LOT BETWEEN 140 OGDEN AND 154 OGDEN AVENUE): DEVELOPERS WANT TO BUILD A 7-STORY, 42 UNIT CONDOMINIUM RESIDENCE.

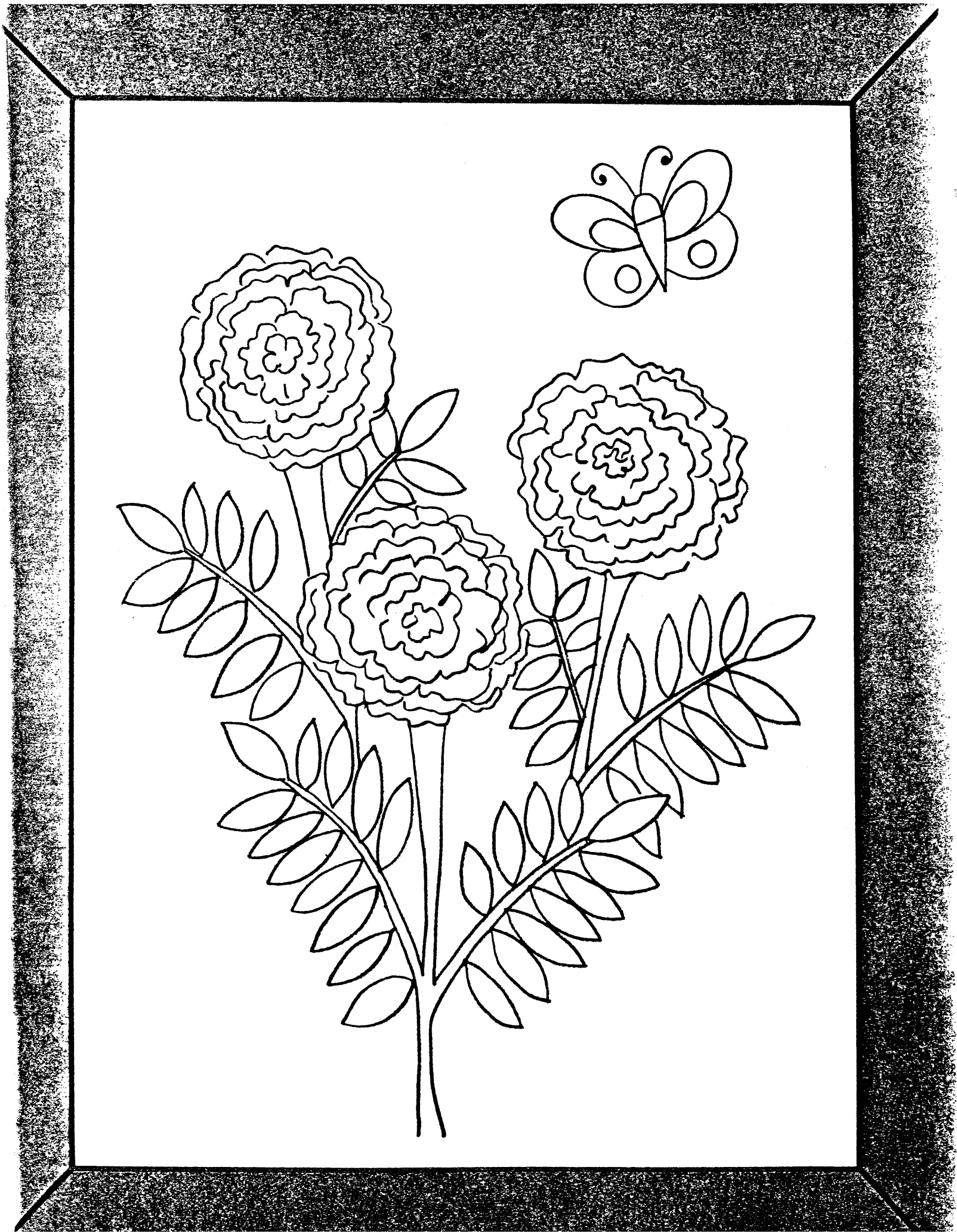
IT'S TOO TALL! TOO MANY APARTMENTS!
TOO MANY PROBLEMS!

NORTH OGDEN CONDO PROJECT (348-352 OGDEN AVENUE): DEVELOPERS WANT TO DESTROY AN HISTORIC MANSION AND BUILD A 4-STORY, 12 UNIT CONDOMINIUM RESIDENCE.

THESE DEVELOPERS WANT TO BREAK OUR ZONING!

STOP THIS OVERDEVELOPMENT

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307

RNA

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JERSEY CITY, N.J.
07302
PERMIT NO. 153
CAR.-RT. PRESORT

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RNA

Vito Brunetti
Chairman

Bob Lewis
Vice-Chairman

Maria Tuzzo
Secretary

Rich LaPosta
Treasurer

Theodore Conrad
Historical Advisor

COMMITTEES:

COMMUNITY AWARENESS:
Edith Springer

PARKS & RECREATION:
Chuck Hollowell

SANITATION:
Anne Hart

TRAFFIC:
Michael Cioffi

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT:
Randy Sanford